

Italian prime minister starts Mideast tour

DAHHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived Saturday in Saudi Arabia at the start of a Middle East tour to promote the Arab-Israeli peace process. Andreotti is scheduled to meet with King Fahd during his overnight stay. He also is scheduled to visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Syria and Libya. Defence Minister Prince Sultan, the third ranking man in the kingdom, met Andreotti on arrival along with other government officials. The kingdom's prime minister is Fahd. Dahhran is the oil-centre of Saudi Arabia. It served as the main assembly point for the U.S.-led coalition forces against Iraq. Italy contributes to the allied forces, basing air force units in the UAE and deploying warships in the region. Italian minesweepers are helping clear hundreds of explosives sown by Iraq off Kuwait. Diplomatic sources said that Andreotti will also meet with the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council who are gathering in Dahhran for a meeting Sunday to discuss post-Gulf war security arrangements.

Volume 16 Number 4715

AMMAN SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991, THI AL QU'DEH 19, 1411

Meguid: Arabs will not give up inch of territories

CAIRO (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Esamat Abdul Meguid said Saturday Arabs would not give up a single inch of Israeli-occupied land in any Middle East settlement. Commenting on remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel must never abandon even a clod of soil, Abdul Meguid told reporters: "Arabs will not abandon one inch of their occupied lands." The United States has criticised Israel's continued settlement of Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Israel has so far resisted U.S. efforts to obtain a Middle East solution based on a land-for-peace formula. Abdul Meguid, who took over as the league secretary-general last month, said the Cairo-based pan-Arab organisation backed current peace efforts "to meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, first and foremost an Israeli withdrawal."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية . الراي

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Palestinians kill 'collaborator'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian activists Saturday shot dead a woman suspected of collaborating with Israel in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Fatima Sharaf, 45, was shot in the head by members of the Black Panthers group, which is associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group, they added. The attack was unusual because the militants were not masked, they said. The sources said that the attackers fled when Israeli soldiers entered the camp but that hundreds of stone-throwing residents then clashed with the soldiers. The soldiers used live ammunition to disperse the demonstrators. Ten people were arrested. No one was injured.

Bush orders wheat for the poor

WEST POINT, New York (AP) — President George Bush Saturday ordered 300,000 metric tonnes of surplus U.S. wheat to be put aside for international relief efforts. Bush said that the grain would be used to meet relief needs in developing countries of the Middle East, Africa and Asia. "The wheat will be used to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the peoples in the Middle East, Africa and Asia who are suffering widespread hunger and malnutrition," Bush said in a statement.

Agnelli, Andreotti senators-for-life

ROME (R) — Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of the Fiat auto company, and seven-time premier Giulio Andreotti were named senators-for-life Saturday. President Francesco Cossiga also selected for the honour Francesco de Martino, 34, a socialist leader and former senator, and Paolo Emilio Taviani, 78, a Christian Democrat who during World War II led the resistance in the region around Genoa. Italian presidents are allowed to nominate as lifelong senators five distinguished citizens. There are 324 senators in the Italian parliament.

Militants kill Egyptian campaigner

CAIRO (R) — Three Muslim militants stabbed to death two Christian brothers because one of them campaigned for birth control, Egyptian Interior Minister Mohammed Abdul Haiman Moussa said Saturday. The militants, armed with knives, attacked Zahir Kamel Abdul Sayed, 33, and his brother Maher, 36, on Thursday night near a village in the southern province of Qena. They were the first reported killings of a sectarian nature in mainly Muslim Egypt since clashes in 1988 between police and Muslim fundamentalists who attacked property owned by members of Egypt's six-million strong Christian Coptic community. One of the militants was arrested after being wounded by police gunfire when he resisted them. Police have launched a manhunt for the other two. Moussa said the pharmacist, who was actively involved in a birth-control campaign, had received a warning from the militants to halt his activities 20 days before he was killed.

Rushdie supporters meet Hurd

LONDON (AP) — Friends of author Salman Rushdie have accused Britain of condoning terrorism by restoring diplomatic links with Iran. Rushdie has been in hiding since Feb. 14, 1989, when the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill the author because his book "Satanic Verses" allegedly blasphemed Islam. "The fact that Mr. Rushdie remains in hiding under serious threat to his life amounts to an act of international terrorism. The British government, by refusing to publicly condemn these attempts on Mr. Rushdie's life, while continuing to build relations with Iran, appears to condone such terrorism," the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie and his publishers said in a statement.

'Only Mideast peace can end the arms race'

Jordan: Bush initiative 'step in right direction,' but must deal with Israel's nuclear arsenal

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan described U.S. President George Bush's initiative on Middle East arms control as a "step in the right direction" but cautioned that it has to be followed by a "real effort to deal with Israel's large arsenal of nuclear and other weapons on the same basis and with the same standard."

The spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, also questioned the spirit of Bush's plan in light of the firm backing to

wards development.

"It is a step in the right direction but should be completed by a sincere effort to deal with Israel's huge nuclear arsenal."

The plan would still permit regional nations to acquire the conventional arms they need to defend themselves.

The spokesman repeated Jordan's calls for continued efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict "to end tension in the region and remove any pretexts for the arms race."

Within 24 hours of the president's proposal in Colorado, De-

fence Secretary Cheney was in Israel agreeing to help the Israelis finance development of the Arrow anti-aircraft missile and providing the Jewish state with F-15 jet fighters.

The White House defended its policy and said agreement with Israel to provide fighters and to join in development of the Arrow missile was a follow-up on the Patriot missile. This, the Americans said, was "indeed consistent with our desire for stability in the region," and therefore does not undermine the Bush arms control proposal for the region

(Continued on page 5)

Bush sends message to Assad

LISBON (R) — Syria's foreign minister said on Saturday that he hoped a letter from U.S. President George Bush to Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad would spur progress towards peace in the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker handed the letter to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara on Thursday, inviting the Syrian minister to join him in Damascus.

Neither Baker nor Sharara would reveal its contents. Baker told reporters it was a very detailed letter but he insisted it did not contain an invitation to a peace conference.

Sharara said it had been worthwhile for him to meet Baker in Lisbon and described their encounter as satisfactory.

"There has been minor progress. Any movement is welcome," Sharara told reporters before he himself had talks with Bessmertnykh.

The United States considers Syria to be the key to the Middle East peace conference that Washington is trying to put together with Moscow's help.

When Baker met Sharara in

Damascus in May, the two men did not hold a news conference after their talks because the U.S. side detected a new toughening in the Syrian position towards a peace conference.

Baker is understood to believe that Assad is weighing whether he wants to be the champion of Arab nationalists or become known as the Arab leader who made peace with Israel.

Baker feels he has made significant progress on bringing Arabs and Israelis towards a peace conference that would launch direct peace talks between these old adversaries.

The main stumbling block appears now to be Israel and Syrian differences over what Baker calls symbolic issues — a role for the United Nations and the duration of the peace conference.

Earlier, after his talks with Baker, Bessmertnykh said they had discussed "steps we may take in the future."

Cheney, Egyptians discuss regional security, arms control

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney conferred with Egyptian leaders Saturday on regional security and arms control.

But despite talk of arms control, Cheney's Egyptian counterpart indicated that his arsenal needs to be modernised to replace outdated 1960s-era Soviet-style weapons with advanced U.S. weapons. Cheney responded with a comment that the United States wants a strong and secure Egypt.

Cheney arrived Friday from Israel, where he discussed the same subjects as well as U.S.-Israeli security cooperation.

In occupied Jerusalem, he told reporters the United States and Israel are stockpiling military equipment in the Jewish state for use in future emergencies. We said the United States wants a similar agreement with Arab nations in the Gulf.

It gave no details of the types of U.S. weapons Tantawi wanted to acquire.

In response, the statement quoted Cheney as saying, "we are eager to ensure the security of Egypt... and we want Egypt to have strong forces capable of repelling aggression whenever necessary."

The United States has supplied Egypt with \$1.3 billion worth of arms annually in recent years. These included 120 F-16 warplanes.

A defence ministry statement said Tantawi brought up the successful use of advanced U.S. weapons in the Gulf war to plead for modernisation of the Egyptian arsenal with U.S. help.

The release said the U.S. weapons' performance "underlined the need to replace the old, East-bloc arms dating back to the 1960s, which represent about 60 per cent of the Egyptian armed

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Iraq to pay maximum of 30 per cent of oil profits for damages

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq may have to pay up to 30 per cent of its future oil revenues to compensate victims of its invasion of Kuwait but the ban on oil exports is not likely to be lifted in the near future.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Friday that Iraq have to pay no more than 30 per cent of its oil revenues, which he estimated would still leave Baghdad with enough money to service its foreign debt, feed its people and rebuild its devastated economy.

The actual percentage Iraq will pay be set later by the U.N. Compensation Commission's governing council, made up of all 15 states of the Security Council.

A European economic expert said he thought this council would set the initial rate lower than 30 per cent because the secretary general's estimates were based on 1993 projections.

"There is no point in trying to bleed Iraq dry if there is nothing coming out of the pipeline," he said.

Under a Security Council resolution adopted on April 3 which set terms for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, the secretary general was to set a ceiling on Iraqi war damage payments from sales of its oil. The resolution based the reparations on total revenues, not profits.

Iraqi U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told Reuters, "we think it is an impossible percentage to implement."

He cited the time it would take to repair Iraq's war-damaged oil industry, the low price of oil, the damaging effects of sanctions still in force against his country and the need to service debts to foreign banks and governments.

"I wonder how Iraq will be able to meet its basic needs such as food and medicine," he said.

Even after Iraq's oil industry began functioning again it would produce only about 700,000 barrels a day in the first year of operation, Al Anbari said, describing the anticipated 30 per cent figure for reparations as "unrealistic."

The task of settling damages will be daunting and include Kuwait's staggering losses, estimated at about \$60 billion. Saudi Arabia costs for cleaning up pollution in the Gulf and the claims of thousands of workers who fled Kuwait after the invasion.

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on paying reparations, a request ignored by the Security Council.

There is no sign that the United States, backed by Britain, is willing to let any oil flow out of Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein is in power.

One U.S. official told Reuters he expected that Iraq might be able to sell a limited amount of oil if it showed desperate humanitarian need but at the moment the embargo was still being used as pressure on President Saddam Hussein.

Baghdad has asked to sell one billion dollars' worth of oil for food and other goods, but the United States and its allies would like Baghdad to use other resources first such as currency or gold supplies it believed Iraq still has.

The secretary general spelled out his logic at arriving at a 30 per cent ceiling. He said Iraq needed about \$8 billion in civilian imports in 1991 and needed to service an internal debt, which according to Baghdad's figures was about \$42 billion.

However, the statement said the exact figure for Iraq's foreign debt could only be ascertained after discussions between Iraq and its creditors. The Soviet Union, France and Germany are said to be the leading creditors.

Iraq's oil exports were expected to reach about \$21 billion by 1993, the statement said. Imports were expected to absorb about 48 per cent of export earnings and debt servicing should be about 22 per cent, it added.

Consequently, Perez de Cuellar said he felt the compensation paid by Iraq should not be higher than 30 per cent of the annual value of oil exports.

Yemen says U.S. arms control proposals must include Israel

SANA (R) — Yemen Saturday welcomed a U.S. plan for arms control in the Middle East but said to be acceptable it must include Israel.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani was commenting on President George Bush's proposals to curb the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and restrict conventional forces to a defensive role.

"If we can guarantee that Israel will not possess any arms of mass destruction, then we have no objection to cooperate in this respect. This is something that deserves support and a blessing," Iryani told Reuters.

"Luckily, Yemen has nothing of the sort to be disarmed of. Arab countries which have weapons do so out of fear from Israel," he said.

"Should Israel no longer possess these weapons, then most Arab leaders will welcome the (U.S.) move."

"However, it is significant that very important negotiations are

underway between Israel and the U.S. on an anti-missile defense network," Iryani said.

"All peace-loving countries in the Middle East have welcomed the American initiative, while the only rejection comes out of Israel."

Iryani was referring to remarks made in Jerusalem by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney Thursday that his country was giving Israel a 10 frontline fighter aircraft and paying 72 per cent of the cost of Israel's Arrow anti-missile missile programme.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates that Israel has 100 nuclear warheads.

In Damascus, Friday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said that U.S. President George Bush's Middle East arms control plan would apparently boost Israel's military superiority.

Sharaa said in a statement: "Syria is still studying U.S. ideas on arms control in the Middle East although it seemed from the

U.S. that they would lead, if implemented, to the promotion of Israel's military supremacy."

Bush Wednesday announced a package aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East and restricting conventional forces to a defensive role.

In the first official Syrian reaction, Sharaa said the proposals would "inflict major harm on Arab interests and would pose dangers to Arab security in the long term."

He said that Israel "produces

in its factories all types of weapons, either conventional or mass destruction weapons, while Arabs do not have such capabilities."

Sharaa said attention should be paid to Israel's present efforts to import, store and develop weapons.

Sharaa said the arms control proposals should be put forward at a time of peace and not while Israel continued to occupy Arab territory.

Lebanese papers print letter to kidnappers of Cicippio

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Five Beirut newspapers Saturday published a letter to the kidnappers of American hostage Joseph Cicippio pleading for his release to enable him see his dying sister.

The letter, signed by the Pennsylvania doctors and nurses attending Cicippio's sister, Helen Fazio, said she was "gravely ill with cancer. She has been undergoing monthly chemotherapy treatment for two years."

Al Nahar, the nation's leading daily, published an Arabic language translation of the letter and L'Orient-Le Jour published it in French.

"She would often share her dream that seeing Joseph come home was part of her encouragement to continue her battle against cancer and deal with its devastating side effects," the letter said.

The letter said that Mrs. Fazio recently "needed to be hospitalized after receiving experimental chemotherapy for one month. She is tired and exhausted. Her energy and will to live are minimal."

The medical staff at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, noted that Mrs. Fazio "has a very limited time to see her dream come true: 'Joseph's release and safe re-

turn.'

"Please grant a dying woman her final wish," the letter pleaded with the kidnappers.

Cicippio's other sister, Rose, died in December 1986 after she was kidnapped.

Cicippio, 60, of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, acting comptroller at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped Sept. 12, 1986.

The Pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation has claimed to hold him.

Releasing Cicippio, the letter said, would give Mrs. Fazio "the encouragement to live until the day she would see her brother and give him the hug she has dreamed of giving him for so long."

The letter followed signals in the Middle East about a possible swap of Shi'ite Muslim prisoners held by Israel for Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon, a key factor that could facilitate the release of the Western hostages.

The 13 missing Westerners in Lebanon, including six Americans, are believed held mainly by pro-Iranian Shi'ite factions.

Also missing are four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

The conservative newspaper Al Diyar said Saturday an undisclosed "number of American and

European officials are expected in Lebanon to follow up the hostage issue."

The newspaper, which does not have a record of accurate reporting on the issue of the hostages, said: "High-level contacts have been under way between Arab capitals and Lebanon to ensure cooperation and coordination in this issue." It did not elaborate.

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or party of God, has said it was prepared to swap two Israeli servicemen it holds for Shi'ite and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Israel has said it also was willing to get involved in a swap but stressed that the exchange should include its seven missing servicemen and noted that jailed Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories would not be part of the tradeoff.

Hostage-holders, believed linked to Hezbollah, have demanded

the release of the Shi'ite detainees saying the move would be an "encouraging prelude" for releasing the Western captives.

American journalist Terry Anderson, 43, of Lorain, Ohio, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held foreign captive. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

The number of Jordanians and

Palestinians registered for this year's Haj — a rite for all able-bodied Muslims once a lifetime — is less than half last year's.

Baghdad has wanted to use its

own military pilots as crop-

dusters near the northern city of

Mosul but the plan was opposed by the allies, said a spokesman for the Rome-based Food and

Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The source said a Lebanon-Syrian treaty, concluded last month and calling for close political, security, military, economic and cultural cooperation between the two neighbours, was a matter of a state's sovereignty.

"These remarks seem strange

and unrealistic," the Libyan

News Agency JANA quoted a

foreign ministry source as saying.

"They do not serve, Franco-Arab ties will reflect on Arab-European rapprochement, in addition to being a flagrant intervention in Syrian-Lebanese and Arab affairs in general."

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Home News

Queen thanks refugee helpers

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Her Majesty Queen Noor stopped by the headquarters of the Christian Children's Fund on Thursday to thank the child care agency's workers for sending relief supplies to refugees in Jordan.

"We're very appreciative of the support that's been offered," the Queen told a roomful of agency employees.

At the Queen's request, the Christian Children's Fund sent Jordan 10,000 blankets and \$50,000 in relief funds at the height of the Gulf war. The Queen and the private agency are discussing a relief programme for refugee children.

The Queen said Jordan had been flooded with several hundred thousand refugees because of the Gulf war.

About 50,000 refugee children have been added to the country's school system, "quite an extraordinary burden," she said.

She said supplies from the Christian Children's Fund and other international relief agencies would be used to curb malnutrition and improve health care and education.

During a U.S. tour that has taken her to the West Coast, the south and Washington, D.C., the Queen said she had been greeted warmly despite strains between Jordan and the U.S. during the war.

Those tensions stemmed "largely if not entirely from misunderstandings" between Jordan and the U.S., she said.

She said Jordan had done more than any other Middle East nation to advance peace in the region.

"We will continue to play as constructive and as positive a role as we can," she said.



Jordan, Egypt to discuss cooperation in health

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jaijouli left Saturday for Cairo on an official several-day visit for talks with his Egyptian counterpart aimed at promoting Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in health-related affairs.

The minister will also take part in an annual Arab conference on emergency cases and cases resulting from accidents on the roads, due to open in Cairo Monday.

The three-day conference will tackle a number of questions of concern to the Arab countries, according to Dr. Jaijouli who said he would discuss with the regional director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) the organisation's assistance to Jordan's health programmes.

Before going to Cairo, the health minister opened here a training seminar attended by countries in the Mediterranean region.

The WHO-sponsored seminar will tackle topics related to insecticides and heavy metals and their adverse effects on public health.

The WHO representative in Jordan and Syria stressed the need for doctors in the region to turn their attention to occupational risks and matters related to health care for the workers in factories dealing with poisonous materials.

He said that the training seminar was designed to help orient the participants on proper means of providing protection against poisonous materials to which workers are exposed.

Countries represented in the seminar are: Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and Tunisia.



Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal Saturday holds a press conference tackling training and employment of human resources (Petra photo)

Minister says human resources are badly managed in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal

Saturday complained of the lack of a general plan in Jordan to organise the training and the employment of human resources and called on the government to establish a council for human resources planning and development.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that his ministry was giving due concern to developing the quality of higher education, and was in the process of conducting a study designed to link training courses at Jordanian universities with the actual needs of the Jordanian society.

The lack of a proper strategy in this matter has been behind the crisis of unemployment of a large number of community colleges

and universities graduates.

"The Ministry of Higher Education should be transformed into an institution that can supervise and follow up the work of community colleges and universities so that their training courses are of benefit to society," Dr. Tal said.

Referring to university education in Jordan, the minister said that the Kingdom could be alone among world nations where universities and community colleges operate on purely commercial basis.

He said that the creation of so many community colleges and private universities was due to the inability of the government-controlled institutions to accommodate all the students wishing to acquire higher education.

"Soon, ministry-appointed teams will embark on tours of community colleges and private universities to examine their efficiency and their programmes," the minister pointed out. "Should any of these institutions prove to be below the required standard, they will be allowed to operate," the minister warned.

He said the ministry would issue a guidebook outlining standards required from each college and also providing guidelines for students to choose for their future careers.

Dr. Tal also said that the Ministry of Higher Education planned to limit the fees each college or university charges and would set up special committees for this purpose.

Committee to start checking factories' waste as deadline ends

ZARQA (J.T.) — A government appointed Public Health Safety Committee will soon conduct spot checks during surprise visits to factories and companies set up in the Zarqa River basin

in order to ensure that their waste water, flowing into the river, conforms to specifications set by the concerned authorities, according to an announcement by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Shobaki.

Mr. Shobaki said that the deadline given to the various businesses to comply with the regulations ended Friday and the government would not be lenient to violators of the law.

Mr. Shobaki said that the Pub-

lic Health Safety Committee would be implementing directives given by the prime minister who stressed the need for factories to treat waste water going into the river that feeds the King Talal Dam in order to reduce to a minimum the level of pollution. The water in the dam is used for irrigating the Jordan Valley farms.

According to Deputy Governor Ghaleb Imeqna, the teams Saturday embarked on inspection tours in order to ensure that factories abide by the regulations.

The stringent measures fol-

lowed an outcry by the Jordan Valley farmers who claimed they

were being forced to irrigate their

land with contaminated water from the King Talal Dam.

The prime minister recently announced the formation of a special committee to investigate into the causes of the damages, but a final report is still to be submitted to the government.

At a meeting with the Jordan Farmers Federation, the prime minister announced last week that the government was granting the federation JD 500,000 to purchase fertilisers, seeds and other requirements to be sold to the farmers at nominal value in order to encourage production.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجريدة العربية المستقلة الصادرة باللغة الإنجليزية في الأردن.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Plan has shortcomings

U.S. President George Bush announced with much fanfare Wednesday his detailed proposal to curb the spread of conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as surface to surface ballistic missiles in the Middle East region. This initiative coincided with the visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to consolidate the U.S.-Israeli strategic and security cooperation and streamline the additional U.S. military support to Israel to the tune of \$750 million.

Israel's anti-missile Arrow programme appears to receive the lion's share of Washington's interest and is targeted for extra funding from the U.S. to the extent of 70 per cent of its production costs. The clearly contradictory signals coming out of the U.S. capital, one calling for a ceiling on conventional and nonconventional weapons in the region and the other offering Israel more and greater military support, make a mockery of the entire exercise to rid the area of the scourge of war.

But that is not all. In announcing his outline for disarmament for this part of the world, President Bush said that halting the proliferation of weapons while supporting the legitimate need of every state to defend itself will require the cooperation of many states in the region and around the world.

Yet the punch line in the newest U.S. initiative to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction is directed to the ban on the future production or buying of weapons-grade uranium and to place all nuclear facilities under international safeguards. In this sense the plan is seriously lacking because it does not address the issue of what to do with existing Israeli nuclear capabilities conservatively estimated to be no less than one hundred nuclear warheads. Viewed against this remarkable deficiency, Mr. Bush's outline for an arms control in the area aims to maintain Israeli monopoly on the possession of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. Such a plan therefore cannot be acceptable to the Arab side without addressing this patent imbalance.

There are other features of the disarmament programme that are also devoid of balance. Take for example the call for a freeze on the purchase, production and testing of surface-to-surface missiles with the ultimate aim of eliminating them. Given the Israeli air superiority, the Arab's acquisition of such missiles was their only way to deter Tel Aviv's obvious control of the airspace in the region. There is a need therefore to curb the Israeli superiority in space in order to make this element in the U.S. plan more acceptable to the Arab side.

As for the call to ban all chemical and biological weapon systems, it presents no problem for either side to accept such a demand especially in view of the fact that both systems of weapons are outlawed under existing international law.

Yet the biggest flaw in the entire scheme is its attempt to put the cart before the horse since it does not envisage the attainment of a lasting and just peace in the area as a prerequisite to its implementation. By shunning away the organic link that clearly exists between the issues of peace and war, the whole exercise remains lopsided in perspective. Only by addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict in its entirety would any plan to curb armament have a chance of success. With U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative hanging in the balance, there is no sure way through which the parties to the conflict can feel secure enough to appreciate the salient features of Mr. Bush's proposals. The least that the parties may expect in this context is a parallel consideration of the issues of peace and armament in the area. Anything short of that would be an exercise in futility.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'AT Arabic daily criticised the United States for envisaging a plan for disarmament which it intends to impose on the Arabs but not on Israel and a statement by an American administration official saying that mass-destruction weapons represent the 'crown jewels' for Israel which cannot be disposed off. The paper noted that the United States seems to be determined to maintain Israeli military superiority under all circumstances, and for this reason, it has just announced plans to provide Israel with more weapons and fighter planes. Furthermore, and in this hostile atmosphere directed against the Arabs, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced that the Jewish state cannot give up one inch of Arab land occupied since 1967, the paper noted. By adopting this policy towards the Middle East, the United States has thus openly declared its strategy and the Arabs have no justification for further delay in announcing their clear attitude towards this flagrant defiance to their existence and their interests, the paper stressed. There is a great gap between what the Arabs want, and they are justified in their demands, and Washington's plans towards the Middle East, said the paper. It said that the Arabs now realize that Washington is just bragging about its intention of establishing peace in the Arab region, while it is openly supporting Israel's military superiority over all Arabs.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily made a mockery of the American official stand with regard to the situation in the Middle East region and the statements by the U.S. administration officials. The paper said while Bush announced that he intends to introduce a plan for disarmament in the Middle East, his defence secretary announced that he intends to provide Israel with further numbers of advanced war planes and planes to help the Jewish state develop its rocket programme by providing it with \$300 million. The paper said that the Arabs cannot understand such hypocrisy and such double standards, and can only explain this attitude by deepening their realisation that Washington intends to disarm the Arabs while keeping Israel in a position to dictate its will on the whole Arab Nation. The paper said that the Arabs can by no means believe that the Americans are serious about their peace initiatives, at a time when they openly announce that they will pursue a plan of bolstering Israel's military capabilities and by announcing that Washington will use Israel as a warehouse for storing U.S. military hardware to confront any war in the future.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic adjustment should resume immediately

JORDAN's present financial position is healthy. The budget deficit has been covered by foreign aid and the reserves of the Central Bank are comfortable. This was made possible because hundreds of millions of dollars in overdue interest were not paid. Can this continue into 1992 and beyond?

It seems, at the moment, that Arab aid to Jordan is out of question in the foreseeable future. Foreign aid, however, is tied to the implementation of economic sanctions against Iraq, which hopefully will not last for long. The foreign creditors have started to press their demands for payment.

Under these conditions, the government should act without further delay, but nothing seems to be happening or about to happen. The present government is not even trying to worry about the future, perhaps because it has no future.

Jordan adopted an economic adjustment programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 1989, only six months after the eruption of the foreign indebtedness crisis in October 1988. The programme aimed at the gradual reduction of substantial imbalances in the economy.

Since then, the programme was implemented successfully. It achieved the main objectives in many areas, especially the budget, the balance of trade, the balance of payments, domestic

savings, rebuilding of reserves, and exchange rate stability. The implementation lasted for 15 months until it was interrupted by the Gulf crisis, when Jordan was hit hard in all its sources of foreign exchange such as Arab aid, exports to Iraq and Gulf states, remittances from expatriates, over and above the near standstill of tourism and transit activities.

The IMF, the creditors of the Paris Club, and the private creditors of the London Club understood the situation. They did not push for repayments of the debt. On the contrary, they came to Jordan's side by fresh financial help especially from Japan, Germany, and the European Community.

Thanks to the substantial aid received by the government, the suspension of debt service, and Iraqi crude oil, Jordan was able to manage its problems, survive the crisis, and absorb the shock. But what comes next?

It is no secret that creditors are now demanding the resumption of repayment. Rescheduling needs a fresh IMF certificate of good economic conduct which we do not have any more. More important, it was agreed by all major donors that all international aid to the states in the region will, from now on, be tied to fundamental economic reforms.

In other words, unless and until we have an acceptable

adjustment programme, we shall not be considered eligible for receiving foreign aid. Even the aid from the \$15-billion Arab Fund that was established by the Gulf states will be conditioned on economic reforms as defined by the IMF.

However, a proper adjustment programme is needed for our own best interest. This is necessary in order to attain durable growth, equitably shared by the population, coupled with reduced external dependence. We should undertake this crucial task even if it were not imposed as a condition for eligibility to debt relief, rescheduling, and foreign financial aid.

Labour, capital and goods markets will need to be opened to free competition. Rationalisation of subsidies and decontrol of domestic prices, are a must. These reforms would permit more efficient interaction between capital surpluses and labour inputs, in an environment of increasing integration with the global economy.

Time is running out, and the current comfortable position may not continue unless the government made an urgent and decisive move to resume adjustment vigorously and push ahead with reform. If we do not do it willingly now, we shall have to do it anyway later on, but at a much higher economic and social price. Adjustment should be resumed, and soon.

By Dr. Fahd Al Mousa

Holocaust mentality obscures Israel's vision

By Robert Bermudes

THE Israel-Palestine conflict is the product of the Israeli political philosophy of "empowerment." This new "guiding star" of Israel is a threat to the tradition of an ancient religious people; it supersedes the 1800-year-old rabbinical tradition which had counselled passivity, non-resistance and powerlessness.

With the defeat of the Zealots in the second century A.D., the Jewish community turned its back on racial exclusivism and rooted Judaism in the *Torah* and the sayings of the Rabbis, the *Mishnah*. The passages of the Bible so important to Jews and Christians reflecting a God of love, justice and peace strongly influenced Jewish culture and politics in the centuries that followed. Those writings rejected the older, racially exclusive concepts of their people and their God. Ethical Judaism's appeals to high ideals and universalism became enthroned for 1800 years.

It is now, therefore, important to ask why, after the emergence of political Zionism in the 19th century, there has been a shift from the ethical mandates of the Prophets and the *Mishnah* to the pragmatic interests of the present Israeli government, which now espouses an exclusivist view of God: God has mandated "The Land" to the Jews. Beginning

with Theodore Herzl, the assertion that "Israel is the country of the Jews and only of the Jews" has been at the heart of Zionist dogma. In turn David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir all espoused this exclusive view, attributing their possession of "The Land" to divine will. Even recently, Shamir, on at least one public occasion, has rejected the land-for-peace formula with the assertion that "God has given Israel this land."

The impact of the Holocaust

The shift in belief was greatly accelerated by the unprecedented suffering of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis. In fact, I suggest the Holocaust became the supreme crisis of faith for Jewry and has brought a wholly new search for meaning.

This question arose: if the God of the chosen people once rescued the faithful from Egypt, why did he not rescue their offspring from the Holocaust? If God left their

For many of today's Jews, God's answer came with and in the formation of the state of Israel and through the power that statehood represents. The point was not wasted on the Holocaust survivors that the essential ingredient inherent in the preservation of any sovereign state — especially a sovereign Israel — is power.

It is clear to Israel's present leadership that the acquisition of

power is inevitably and absolutely essential, and the earlier virtue of powerlessness is now viewed as unforgivable sin. Their slogan is now the oft-repeated phrase "never again." They must keep the Holocaust fresh in the world's consciousness. They must acquire, enlarge and employ military power to ensure their security.

Political power, sustained by European and North American Jews who are increasingly politically active, has become "sacred." This transition in Jewish thinking from "quiet invisibility" to activism reflects the shift from the sacramental to the secular, from effacement and powerlessness to empowerment.

"Chequebook Judaism"

It would seem that financial, military and political power is Israel's highest priority. Marc Ellis, a Jewish theologian, asserts that the "newly formed political attitudes and alliances of American Jewry are seen by some as *Judaism without religious content*, or 'chequebook Judaism' that substitutes financial support for religious obligation." Israel's need to amass power has reached the level of sacred principle. The new reactionary pragmatism is writing its own type of "sacred" literature. Accounts that tell and retell 20th century events help to shape the framework for a new

Jewish state founded on expediency, military alliances and power, surrounded, of course, by an "eternally hostile world."

The failure of the present Israeli government to heed the Prophetic tradition further contributes to the bankruptcy of Jewish values. The Prophets did not merely hold up perfectionist ideals; they explicitly denounced those faults and potentially disastrous actions from which their community sought to hide. The tragic result of this repression of the Prophetic tradition has meant that many Jews can no longer understand another's story, hear another's pain or acknowledge that other communities' struggles for freedom are as valid as their own.

So much of the ethical tradition has been repressed in favour of this newly exalted empowerment that it is in danger of being forced to go underground or die. One rarely hears any call for justice for Palestinians from American Jewry. Yet, was it not Amos who eloquently denounced the social injustices in the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the eighth century B.C.? "You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:21). God admonished the chosen people, "do not ill treat an alien

or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt, you know the heart of the stranger" (Exodus 23:9). Isaiah condemned his own people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah because "justice is far from us." Jeremiah chastised his people who were arrogantly confident that the existence of the Temple in Jerusalem provided a guarantee of their security regardless of the moral condition of society. What message do these words convey to the present Israeli leadership, one wonders?

If this new philosophy of empowerment was more humane and ethical, then those experienced the Holocaust might be able to understand the nature of its harm and the deep division fostered within the state of Israel between warring factions. Worse yet, Holocaust philosophy fosters the worship of a national security state and militarism. In contrast, the religion of the Old Testament Prophets spurns systems of control and domination and favours the quest for justice, peace and solidarity between oppressed peoples. Only Israel's return to that tradition can bring a new sense of identity to Jew and Palestinian, and peace to their land.

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bermudes is senior minister of the Interdenominational United Church of Christ, Rochester, N.Y. His article is reprinted from the London-based *Middle East International*.

Champion of a world in chains

Amnesty International turned 30 years old on May 27. Oliver Gillie from *The Independent* salutes an organisation that no government can intimidate or silence.

WHEN the moral high ground is pre-empted, an onslaught of righteous indignation provides the best chance to reclaim it quickly. That was Margaret Thatcher's tactic when Amnesty International dared to ask her about the shooting of three members of the IRA in Gibraltar in 1988.

Mrs. Thatcher was furious. The inquiry was "utterly disgraceful" she said, and made it clear she would not reply.

Her fury emanated from the knowledge that Amnesty could not be ignored. The importance of its work was swiftly recognised. Nevertheless, the report appears to have been effective.

The next year the Knesset amended the criminal law to give

suspects the right of silence, although the police do not have to tell detainees they have this right.

Right or wrong, Amnesty has the muscle to ask awkward questions and make politically embarrassing charges because it owes no debts to any government. It accepts no government funds and, as it is not a charity, it cannot be muzzled by charity law that forbids political activism. Its constitution and wide international base also prevent any group having undue influence or exercising a veto.

Friends of Israel, or any other country, would be familiar with Amnesty because such executions occur every day around the world, suggests the horrors of the Gestapo and the gas chamber. It placed Britain alongside countries such as Somalia, Iran and Argentina.

Richard Reoch, a spokesman for Amnesty's international secretariat, says: "Why should we treat the United Kingdom as different from any other country in the world? Amnesty must be seen to be looking at the same areas in every country. There should be no no-go areas for human rights."

The struggle for this piece of moral high ground continues. The government denies there is a shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland. But Amnesty alleges that 71 killings by the security forces in the province since 1982 took place in disputed circumstances and says the possibility that they may have been deliberately planned should be investigated.

Mrs. Thatcher's reaction was familiar. Amnesty is used to outraged responses. In 1980 there was a similar reaction from Israel when Amnesty reported that unnecessarily harsh methods were being used to quell public disturbances and that people in custody

human rights here. Mr. Reoch, the spokesman for the international branch in London, is Canadian.

Whatever is said by British politicians about Amnesty's work here; the government tacitly recognises the value of its activities elsewhere. British politicians frequently consult Amnesty about the state of human rights in the countries they intend to visit because it has a reputation for accuracy.

Amnesty, 30 years old and celebrating, began in 1961 when a British lawyer, Peter Benenson, wrote an article in the *Observer* called "The Forgotten Prisoners." Its first confrontation with the U.K. government came in 1966 when it alleged that British troops were using torture in Aden.

"The resulting controversy nearly sunk Amnesty," Mr. Reoch says. "It had been the darling of the liberal establishment in England until then. But they came down on it like a tonne of bricks because they believed it should be looking at the rest of the world."

The government appointed a commission of inquiry which, in effect, acknowledged the problem by recommending important changes in interrogation procedures.

Amnesty often claims that Amnes-

ty has a political bias. South Africans have called it a communist organisation, and the Soviets have said it is run by the CIA. Such accusations, coming from both the left and the right, suggest that the organisation is occupying different ground — moral ground.

Amnesty's weapons,

are letters to the press.

Establishing the facts when allegations of human rights abuse are made can be difficult. "Torture almost always takes place in secret," says Mr. Reoch. "There are often no witnesses to abductions or arrests and even if there were, they may be intimidated into silence. And some countries will not allow Amnesty researchers to enter."

Most of the organisation's documents have been compiled by talking to as many people as possible and piecing facts together. Sometimes direct knowledge of abuses comes from pursuing cities or from being on the spot. In the Philippines last year an investigation team found two "disappeared" women who had been missing for several months. The government had not acknowledged their arrest, but the team had heard rumours of the women's whereabouts in a military camp and in fact found them where they went there," Mr. Reoch says.

Amnesty has survived because it has a narrow focus. It has a precise mandate based upon the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights: to obtain the release of prisoners of conscience, to end torture, the death penalty and other cruel and degrading treatment of prisoners, and to obtain fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners.

The implement this mandate it must maintain an intellectual rigour in the most difficult circumstances, and it is this that commands the attention of governments. Amnesty tries to distinguish between allegations and facts. Nevertheless, by repeating allegations it gives them a certain authority, something the organisation occasionally regrets.

Last year, it took up the case of several "prisoners of conscience" who were, according to media reports, being held in psychiatric institutions in Romania. Members were asked to begin a letter-writing campaign. But further investigations found that all the people in the institutions were, in fact, suffering from mental illness.

It is the letter writing that makes Amnesty special — a constituency of one million members around the world who between them carry a great deal of influence.

This influence demonstrates the power of the citizens to change government policy and bureaucratic thinking.

This is the visible demonstration of a force for good.

The fact that Amnesty is 30 years old shows that even when the human spirit is bullied and tortured into submission there is someone to call the bullies to account.

Only peace can end arms race

(Continued from page 1)

ary supremacy.

Egyptian political observers and some Western diplomats said the Middle East arms control initiative seemed to favour Israel by leaving its nuclear weapons and defence industries intact.

Israel refuses to confirm or deny a widespread belief that it has nuclear arms.

Bush proposed barriers to exports that contribute to weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, a freeze and later a ban on surface-to-surface missiles and production of nuclear weapons material, and restriction of conventional forces to a defensive role.

Egypt, the largest recipient of U.S. military and civil aid after Israel, has welcomed the initiative. It has long advocated a Middle East free of chemical and nuclear arms.

But Syria said on Friday that Bush's plan would apparently boost Israel's military might, unravelled in the region.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharad said Damascus was still studying the proposal but it seemed it would lead, if implemented, to promoting Israel's military supremacy.

Cheney, who arrived in Egypt from Israel on Friday, lunched with Mubarak on Saturday at Ismailiya on the Suez Canal. Officials said they discussed arms control and other post-Gulf war issues for more than two hours.

"I don't see any point in introducing the (arms control) proposal at all because it appears to keep Israel's capability untouched," said Salama Ahmed Salama, managing editor of Egypt's influential semi-official daily Al Ahram.

"Cheney seems to have concluded that Israel has the right to keep what it already has," he added. "I think Arabs are being deceived by proposals that allow Israel whatever it wants."

A Middle East analyst at Washington's Brookings Institute echoed the view that Israel's advantage would be preserved.

"Israel would get to keep its (unclear) stockpile and since none of the Arab states has nuclear arms and Iraq's programme has been destroyed, that would be a big plus for them (the Israelis)," William Quandt said.

A Western diplomat based in Cairo also pouted cold water on the arms control proposals.

"Israel has no intention of giving up what it does not admit to having, so it would claim compliance with the proposals as far as nuclear weapons are concerned," he told Reuters.

Rafsanjani calls for hostage deal

(Continued from page 1)

In recent days, Hizbollah has said it would trade two Israelis it is holding for Arabs held by Israel.

He added: "Besides they need some time to gain the numerous concessions they want and carry on their work to make the Iraqi people exhausted and the next government weak."

The Iranian president said a change in leadership had not yet been forced on Iraq because "this dilly-dallying is to find suitable pawns."

Iraq has reported increasing economic problems stemming from the embargo imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. A special U.N. committee has approved the unfreezing of Iraqi financial assets, but so far no countries have responded.

Rafsanjani's wide-ranging interview with Jomhuri Islami was timed to mark the second anniversary of the death of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He died on June 3, 1989.

Iran and Iraq, which were at war from 1980-88, remain tense neighbours at the head of the Gulf.

Rafsanjani was asked about efforts by Kurdish leaders to reach an agreement with Baghdad for autonomy in northern Iraq.

"They wanted to take advantage of Saddam's weakness and get concessions," Rafsanjani said.

He said that if President Saddam remained in power, he could not be counted on to carry out the pact, and that if he were ousted, his successors would have no obligation to honour it.

"In my view they (the Kurds) haven't gained anything," Rafsanjani said.

"Probably they (the Amer-

'Secret' witness in Kuwait trials

(Continued from page 1)

she would be raped, but the prosecution said she volunteered.

She denied she had ever worked as a reporter, but the prosecution said there were letters asking for press credentials for her a number of stories, including unveiling a mural of Saddam Hussein.

Ethiopian leader pledges reconciliation

(Continued from page 1)

"Dire Dawa is now under the full control of the EPRDF and our troops are proceeding towards Harar," Meles said, referring to two major towns in the famine-hit eastern Hararghe region and one of the last areas of the country to fall under rebel control.

Nationwide, about eight million people face death through starvation in a famine worse than the catastrophic one of 1984-85 in which one million people died.

Dozens of people are already dying every day, particularly in the remote eastern Ogaden region who who work say is the worst hit area.

After meeting EPRDF representatives on Friday, senior U.N. officials expressed anger over delays in reopening Addis Ababa's international airport — closed since last weekend — and accused the rebels of failing to deliver on promises to get food aid moving again as quickly as possible.

Some parts of the country not under rebel control are reported to be in chaos, with banditry and looting widespread.

"Let's not forget that this is

Cheney, Egyptians discuss security

(Continued from page 1)

position in driving Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait were absolutely vital in the war.

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In Tel Aviv Defense Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday the U.S. provision of 10 F-15 warplanes to Israel did not contradict Washington's arms control initiative.

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"No, there is no contradiction. The Americans understand ... that the source of the problem is the lack of symmetry in the amount of weapons," Arens said in an interview with Israeli radio Saturday.

"The Arabs have four or five and in some instances seven times the amounts of weaponry that we have. This is the factor that makes the region unstable and creates (the Arab states) to initiate a war against us," Arens said.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Star coach considers quitting

BELGRADE (R) — Red Star Belgrade coach Ljupko Petrovic is considering leaving the European Cup winners and has received offers from abroad. "It's time I started thinking of myself and my family," Petrovic, 45, said Saturday. "I've given most of my life to soccer without any significant financial rewards. That should change." Petrovic joined Red Star a year ago, under his guidance they retained their national title and beat Marseille on penalties in the European Cup final Wednesday. "Now I am in position to dictate terms," he said. "I may stay with Red Star but under conditions that are not likely to be acceptable for the club. Everything has changed now." "When I came into the club I wasn't even allowed to move furniture around in my office." Petrovic said he had received several lucrative offers from European teams, but did not want to go into detail.

Gascoigne leaves hospital

LONDON (R) — Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne left hospital on crutches Friday and his business adviser said he would travel to Italy next week to finalise his transfer to Lazio. Mel Stein said reports that the Lazio deal was off were "definitely wrong," and talks in Rome scheduled for Tuesday should be a formality. Gascoigne, who suffered knee ligament damage in the F.A. Cup final against Nottingham Forest, would be on crutches for a month and back playing early next year, said Stein. "He is fine. He's raring to go. He obviously doesn't want to rush things too much. He has got the barest of dressings on the knee. To look at him you would not think anything was wrong." "He is just looking forward to restarting his career in Italy."

Italy adds newcomers against Norway

ROME (AP) — Newcomers Gennaro Ruotolo of Genoa and Torino forward Gianluigi Lentini joined the Italian National Team Friday as the squad gathered in Cerveteri to prepare for a crucial European Championship qualifying game against Norway. Coach Azzeglio Vicini named Ruotolo and Lentini to replace regular members of team who are either injured or suspended. Italy will be without Roberto Baggio, Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Donadoni and Pietro Vierchowod for Wednesday's group 3 game in Oslo. The Soviet Union leads the group with a 3-1-0 record for 7 points, one more than Italy and Hungary. Italy, like the Soviets, has played four games while Hungary has played six. Norway is fourth with 5 points in four games. Vicini did not immediately announce his lineup for the game, a must win for Italy if it keeps its qualification chances alive.

Juventus gets players for American tour

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Juventus of Turin has added Hungarian forward Lajos Detari and Yugoslav Zeljko Petrovic for its three-game North American tour next month, club officials reported Friday. Detari, who plays with Bologna, and Petrovic, of Dynamo Zagreb, were added on loan to strengthen the squad, which will be without key players engaged in European championship qualifying matches for their national teams. Juventus, which finished a disappointing seventh in the Italian first division this year despite its star-studded roster, will play the U.S. national team in New Haven June 9, a team from El Salvador in Los Angeles June 14 and at Leon, Mexico, June 1. The team will be directed by deputy coach Antonello Caccureddu. Gigi Maifredi, the team's coach last season, has been fired and is seeking a new job. Giovanni Trapattoni, who left Internazionale of Milan, will replace Maifredi next season at Juventus.

England beats Australia 1-0

SYDNEY (R) — World Cup semifinalists England scrambled a 1-0 win over Australia in a friendly Soccer International Saturday and needed an own goal to do it. The success stretched manager Graham Taylor's unbeaten start to nine games, equaling Don Revie's record, but it was an inauspicious beginning to their four-match tour. England's forwards struggled to create chances and the few they carved out were wasted in a dismal display of finishing which could have cost them the match but for a fine performance by goalkeeper Chris Woods.

Chioccioli regains pink jersey

SCANNO, Italy (AP) — Spanish veteran Marino Lejarreta won the fifth stage of the Tour Of Italy of Friday, edging Italy's Franco Chioccioli at the finish line. Chioccioli regained the pink jersey as the overall leader, retaking the position he lost to Eric Boyer Thursday, beating the Frenchman in Friday's stage by nearly a minute. Lejarreta and the Italian launched a successful attack about 30 kilometres from Scanno, the first tough mountainous stage of the 21-stage race that is set to end in Milan June 16. They built a 15-second lead on the top the Godi pass and increased their advantage in the final kilometres while approaching this hilly town in the southern Abruzzo region. The 35-year-old Spaniard edged ahead 300 metres from the finish and finished the 214-kilometre stage, the longest of the race with three mountain passes, in six hours, 17 minutes and eight seconds. Chioccioli's second-place finish gave him an eight-second advantage over Lejarreta in the overall standings.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦K72 ♦K6 ♦63 ♦Q109842
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you bid now?
A.—If partner has a club fit, there might be a slam. However, you can't jump to four clubs, since that would be Gerber—asking for aces. The way to show this hand is first to bid three clubs, which partner will treat as Stayman, and then follow up with four clubs to correct that impression.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#Q10763 ♦AJ10543 ♦Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—There are hands with five reasonable spades and six poor hearts where you might want to bid spades first and then show hearts at your next turn. This is not the hand. Here, your hearts are so much better than the spades that anything other than a one-heart response should be treated with scorn.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦76 ♦K9872 ♦AK1062 ♦7
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—Had you held two four-card suits, you would have responded up-the-line, i.e. you would have bid one diamond. With two five-card suits, however, you show the higher-ranking one first. Respond one heart. The strength of your suits does not enter into the matter.

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

Exhausted Connors pulls out of Paris Open Top women seeds proceed towards quarterfinal clash

PARIS (AP) — Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati continued their march toward a possible quarterfinal showdown with decisive two-round victories in the French Open Saturday.

Seles, defending her 1990 title and her no. 1 ranking, defeated France's Karine Quentrec, 6-1, 6-2. Capriati, seeded 10th, beat Japan's Maya Kidowaki, 6-3, 6-4.

Third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini beat France's Mary Pierce, 6-2, 6-1, setting up a fourth-round match with unseeded Australian Rachel McQuillan, a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, victor over Canada's Helen Kolesi.

The 14th seed, Leila Meekhi of the Soviet Union, ousted American Linda Harvey-Wild, 6-3, 6-1.

Five women's seeds have been eliminated, but none of the survivors has yet lost a set.

Seles, who has not lost more than three games in any one set, and Capriati each need one more to set up a meeting in the quarterfinals.

"The earlier rounds this year are much easier," Seles said. "I think the top five or six women have really improved themselves compared to the others in the top 50. When we get to the semis, you'll see great matches."

"There is quite a gap between the top four or five players and the rest," the Yugoslav said. "We

pretty much always get in to the semifinals unless we play really badly."

Seles, who took over the world number one spot from German Steffi Graf in March, played her usual baseline power game with fierce double-fisted drives on both forehand and backhand.

But she said she had worked hard on improving her serve and volley game with the Wimbledon tournament in mind. "I'm volleying really well in practice but in a match it's not so secure—though it is improving," she added.

Capriati had the rare experience of trailing when she dropped serve in the third game of the opening set. But she broke straight back and only lost one more game in the entire match.

Like Seles, Capriati said she was trying to adopt a more attacking approach to the game. "It's good to have an all-round game," she said.

"I felt pretty confident out there so when I had the chance I tried to come to the net."

The men's top seed, Stefan Edberg, headed into a potentially difficult third-round match later Saturday against Soviet Andrei Cheshnikov.

Edberg's chief rivals, second-seeded Boris Becker and fourth-seeded Andre Agassi, coasted

into the fourth round with easy victories Friday. But Jimmy Connors captured the spotlight, and repeated centre-court ovations, by battling for more than 210 minutes against Michael Chang, a player half his age.

Connors, 38, finally succumbed to a sore back and exhaustion, withdrawing at the start of the fifth set. He was carried up the steps to the players' locker room and treated at the infirmary, but said later, "it was fun."

Chang, the 10th seed, had Saturday off while preparing for a fourth-round match with another local hero, top French player Guy Forget, the no. 7 seed.

"Obviously the crowd was pulling for Jimmy—he's a champion wherever he goes," Chang said. "I knew Jimmy was having some kind of difficulty, but he was still hitting great shots."

Becker overpowered Australia's Wally Masur, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 Friday and, if he gets by fourth-round opponent Francisco Clavet Sunday, would play the Chang-Forest winner in the quarterfinals.

Former women's champions Steffi Graf, seeded second, and no. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario also trounced overmatched opponents, leading a group of four seeded women into the final 16. There was one upset: South Afri-

ca's Elina Reinach ousted 11th-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-4.

Agassi, the no. 4 seed who reached the final last year, advanced to the fourth round with a 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 victory over Patrick McEnroe.

"That was probably the best tennis I have ever played, the best I have ever hit the ball," said Agassi, who next meets Alberto Mancini of Argentina.

Connors, with a packed centre-court crowd roaring its approval, overcame his stiff back to knot his match against Chang at two sets apiece.

But then, drained of energy and playing only on instinct, he pulled out after just one point of the fifth set.

"I'm sorry, I did all I could. I just can't play anymore," Connors told umpire Bruno Rebush after 3 hours, 31 minutes of play. "Believe me, if I could stay out here and play, I would."

Chang, 19, who was not born when Connors won his first pro tournament in January 1972, was the French Open champion two years ago.

"Honestly, I didn't think Jimmy still had the energy to go out there and win the fourth set. He pulled that one out. That's Jimmy Connors," he said. "He gets all his energy from his gut."

Milan coach leaves soccer for a year

MILANELLO, Italy (AP) — Arrigo Sacchi, who led AC Milan to two international Cup and two European Champions Cup titles, has resigned as expected from the Italian powerhouse from a one-year sabbatical from soccer.

"I am not going to coach another team, or join the national squad. I had several second thoughts before taking a final decision," Sacchi said. "This is not a farewell. I will come back."

Sacchi, whose contract with Milan expires in 1992, has been rumoured for weeks to be leaving the club and said he needs "a one year pause to reflect and study."

Four operations in 13 months led to such pessimism.

But Slaney said she never gave up. Now she's running, and winning, again. At age 32, she's convinced her best days on the track are ahead of her.

"What keeps me running is I truly love the sport," she said. "I really, really think in my heart that I haven't run as fast as I can, and I want the opportunity to try and achieve what I think my potential really is."

Slaney's comeback has been a quiet one by design. In the mid-1980s, when she dominated American middle-distance running, her every move was chronicled. But she's been out of the spotlight for some time.

"It has made it easier to come back without so much attention," she said. Success, though, has brought back the media.

Club officials said Sacchi will be replaced by Fabio Capello, a former player and coach of the Milan team who has long been in the staff of the Fininvest group, the holding company of Italian media tycoon and AC Milan president-owner Silvio Berlusconi.

Despite finishing second in the Italian league, which would qualify him for the UEFA Cup tournament next season, AC Milan will miss next year's European competition because of a one-year suspension imposed for leaving the field with three minutes remaining in its Champions Cup quarterfinal match at Olympique

track.

Piggott Rode Hokusai to finish third to Marju in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket but deserted the Coll in the 2000 Guineas to partner Bog Trotter.

Hokusai finished eighth to Mystiko in the Nesmarket Classic, but was then tried over a longer trip at longchamp last week when, ridden by Cash Asmussen, he was fourth. His winning prospects are not obvious but Piggott said: "I think he's got a good chance and he'll get the trip."

One bookmaking firm, which had the horse as high as 80-1, had to trim the price to 66-1 when news got out that Piggott, dubbed the "housewives' favourite,"

would be on board.

Mervyn Wilson, managing director of Surrey racing, said: "Once everyone realised Lester was likely to be in the saddle we started taking quite a few bets for the horse."

"Obviously lots of people want to be on Piggott in the Derby — whether he's riding — and now it's confirmed he'll be on Hokusai I'm sure we'll get lots more inquiries."

Piggott won his first derby in 1954 on Never Say Die and was last successful at Epsom on Teesside in 1983. A total of 18 colts were confirmed at the latest declaration stage. Newmarket 2,000 guineas winner Mystiko is the 3-1 favourite.

Piggott to ride 66-1 outsider in Derby

LONDON (R) — Lester Piggott, who has won the English Derby a record nine times, will have his 33rd ride at the Epsom Horse Racing Classic Wednesday.

The 55-year-old Piggott, who came out of retirement last year, partened 66-1 outsider Hokusai.

Hokusai, owned by Piggott's old friend Charles St George, had been considered a doubtful star after three disappointing runs this season.

But in a decision sure to delight all sentimentalists, St George said Saturday: "The horse has worked well and he'll run with Lester aboard."

Hokusai had recently been trained especially to assess whether he was likely to handle the difficult left-handed Epsom

track.

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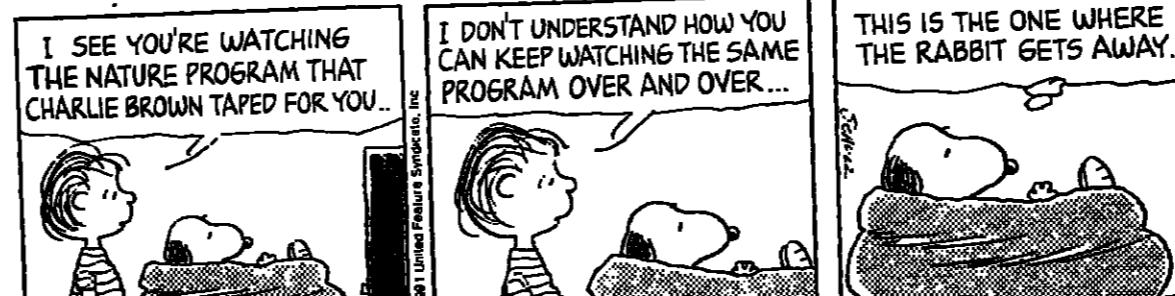
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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



FIFA re-examines resorting to penalties after extra time

reach the penalty shoot-out stage," Petrovic said.

"Our scope is very limited in situations like that," Heeren reacted. "We can only encourage coaches to play more positive soccer. We cannot control the tactics the players use on the field."

"Having a penalty shoot-out is better than tossing a coin or drawing lots."

On June 8, FIFA's international board holds its annual meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to discuss changes playing rules.

Abolition of the one-on-one situation with the goalkeeper, who would be allowed to leave his line.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF



Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 30/5/91	New York Close Date 31/5/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7135	1.6975
Deutsche Mark	1.7189	1.7425
Swiss Franc	1.4840	1.4855
French Franc	5.8305	5.9075
Japanese Yen	137.78	136.35
European Currency Unit	1.1992 **	1.1805

** USD Per STG

** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Benchmark bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 31/5/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.61	5.93	6.06	6.34
Sterling Pound	11.43	11.25	11.06	10.93
Deutsche Mark	3.75	3.93	6.93	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.87	7.87	7.68
French Franc	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.18
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.65	7.53	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.81	9.75	9.50

Benchmark bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals Date: 31/5/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	360.65	6.70	Silver	4.12	.098

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.682	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1565	1.1623
Deutsche Mark	.3911	.3931
Swiss Franc	.4588	.4611
French Franc	.1153	.1159
Japanese Yen*	.4921	.4946
Dutch Guilder	.3473	.3490
Swedish Krona	.1098	.1105
Italian Lira*	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01900	.01910

* For 100

Other Currencies Date: 1/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7800	1.8050
Lebanese Lira*	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1815	.1821
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1844	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1844	.1860
Greek Drachma*	.3510	.3610
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4300

* For 100

CME Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	22/5/1991 Close	29/5/1991 Close
All-Share	114.75	115.19
Banking Sector	110.98	110.27
Insurance Sector	112.59	112.59
Industry Sector	117.51	116.03
Services Sector	126.65	126.37

December 31, 1990 = 100

Bern edges closer to EC-EFTA accord

ZURICH (R) — Swiss negotiators say they have moved closer to agreeing terms for the creation of a 19-country European single market, an enterprise where their position has until now been a major stumbling block.

"In view of the progress made in the last two weeks I take a more positive view of the treaty than before," chief negotiator Franz Blankart told a news briefing.

He said the government also now felt more at ease with the planned treaty, which seeks to include the countries of the Euro-

pean Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Community (EC) into the European Economic Area (EEA), a single market stretching from the Arctic to the Mediterranean.

The main hurdle for Switzerland had been the EC's refusal to grant it the right to opt out of subsequent EC rules, where EFTA will be excluded from decision-making.

Switzerland was so dissatisfied with the result and final declaration of a ministerial EC-EFTA meeting in mid-May that it refused the right not to sign an

accord it saw as one-sided.

Mr. Blankart refused to be drawn on what had now made the terms more acceptable, but it seemed unlikely Switzerland had extracted further concessions from its negotiating partners.

He hinted that Switzerland had softened its position, comparing it to a carpet-seller who wanted to get the highest price. "We got a price for the carpet that is entirely appropriate," he said.

"Clearly, as part of a community of nations, Switzerland must show more will to compromise

than if it were a South Sea island," he said.

Other EFTA countries — Austria, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein — are less concerned about abdicating some decision-making powers to the EC because most are thinking in terms of joining the Community at a later date.

The government has seen an escape clause regarding future EC decisions as important in selling EEA to a population who must ratify membership by referendum.

"Even if the western world provided only half of that, many developing countries would end up getting a lot less aid," said one source, who declined to be identified.

U.S. President George Bush sounded a bit more optimistic, although Soviet officials said Mr. Primakov did not make any specific request for aid when he met the U.S. leader.

"I liked what I heard and we

have some decisions ahead of us, and I'm not going to pre-judge those decisions," Mr. Bush said after a 45-minute meeting with Mr. Primakov.

Moscow is pressing the United States for \$1.5 billion in credits to buy U.S. grain, and is seeking most-favoured-nation trading status that would make it easier for the Soviet Union to sell its goods in the lucrative American market.

But the real prize that the Soviet Union is seeking is a multi-billion dollar western aid package in return for economic reforms.

White House Economic Advisor Michael Boskin said that Soviet Union has made some progress in developing a reform plan needed to attract western financial aid, but that it still has more to do.

"We want to make sure that they have a real reform plan that has a prospect of getting them to a market economy," Mr. Boskin said in an interview with the U.S.-based Cable News Network.

Soviet economist Grigory Yavitsky, who accompanied Mr. Primakov to Washington, is working with academics from Harvard University to try to come up with such a package.

So far, however, there is little

sign that he has been able to translate his lofty ideal of developing a free market economy in the Soviet Union into a pragmatic programme.

IMF sources said Mr. Camesdus emphasised the importance of the Soviet Union carrying out tough economic reforms when he met Mr. Primakov.

Diplomats said that radical

steps may be needed to help right the economy that looks increasingly out of control.

Hyper-inflation looks increasingly likely and the central government is sinking deeper and deeper into the red because the republics are refusing to pass along tax revenues to it.

"The situation is much worse than it was at the end of last year," one diplomat said.

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8 die in Pakistan arsenal blast

R NOWSHERA, Pakistan (R) — An army arsenal blew up in northern Pakistan spewing out hundreds of missiles that killed at least eight people and injured 50, government officials said Saturday.

"I first thought it was an earthquake," Nowshera's assistant commissioner Fakhar Alam said of Friday's blast.

The officials said they feared the toll could go much higher.

"A column of dust and smoke rose from the dump and the shelling started," school teacher Shahid Riaz said. "The missiles came whistling."

Officials were unsure of the number of casualties inside the ordnance depot outside the city.

The explosion revived memories of an unexplained blast at a munitions dump near Islamabad three years ago.

Scores of children and women were missing after tens of thousands of people fled the city in panic, one official said.

"To locate them is one of our major problems, the others being defusing the large number of unexploded bombs scattered in the area and security of houses which many residents left unlocked when they fled," he said.

Protesters burn effigy of De Klerk

It CAPE TOWN (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) protesters burned an effigy of President F.W. De Klerk at a demonstration Friday against white rule hours before he made a conciliatory plea for peace.

Without referring specifically to blacks, De Klerk said on national television that many South Africans "do not feel free. They feel dominated, disadvantaged and deprived of rights."

"The harsh reality remains that millions of our citizens do not enjoy the rights of citizenship usually brings with it," De Klerk said in a speech marking the 20th anniversary of South Africa's full independence from Britain.

The president repeated his call for peace talks involving all political parties and an end to the violence in black townships.

About 1,000 activists took part in the "bury the racist republic" march on parliament, which was led by ANC leader Walter Sisulu and South African Communist Party head Joe Slovo.

The march — one of several around the country — was held to oppose the celebration of Republic Day, the 30th anniversary of South Africa's full independence from British rule.

With dozens of police watching,

small explosions could still be heard from the depot in the early hours of Saturday. Fire engines were fighting fires there more than 10 hours after the main explosion.

One missile landed on Alam's house without causing any injury. But he said he saw a dead man with his head almost blown off. "It was terrible, terrible."

"There was continuous blasting for three hours after the first blast at 4:45 p.m. (1145GMT)," Deputy Commissioner Liaquat Ali told reporters.

"During this period people fled their homes," he added, estimating half of the city's population of some 100,000 may have fled.

Several villages up to seven kilometres away were hit by the missiles, he said.

The huge dump covering several square kilometres employed

about 200 people. It was not known how many were killed.

Seven of the people confirmed dead were civilians and one was a soldier from the large army garrison, Ali said.

Along the Grand Trunk Road linking Islamabad and the frontier city Peshawar, hundreds of unexploded rockets and shells lay scattered through streets and gar-

dens.

Some were stuck in the masonry of houses but failed to explode because they were not armed while in storage.

Troops refused to let anybody close to the dump. Large areas of the city were cordoned off.

Villager Jamila Bibi said she saw many wounded people as she fled from the explosions.

"On the way I saw the people lying on the ground with wounds in their heads, in their legs and in their chests," Bibi said after reaching relatives in Peshawar. "I saw men and women. It was like doomsday."

Bibi, who escaped her Badashah home with her two young children, said she saw what appeared to be rockets smashing into village houses and the mosque near the dump.

"People were saying 'run, run, get out.' I left all my belongings and ran."

A similar arsenal blast at Ojri near Islamabad on April 10, 1988 killed more than 100 people and injured more than 1,000.

The cause of that explosion has never been officially explained.

Ojri was reported to have been used as a transit camp for weapons being sent to arm

markets remained shut. Authorities closed local schools and colleges indefinitely.

Afghan guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Army Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg has visited the area and an army statement said the cause of the Nowshera blast was being investigated.

There are two camps near Nowshera for some of the more than three million Afghan war refugees in Pakistan.

The exodus from Nowshera continued Saturday morning as residents fled fearing fresh explosions.

Terrified people took whatever transport they could get to go to the nearby towns of Peshawar or Mardan out of reach of possible exploding missiles.

The authorities have set up emergency relief camps in the two towns.

"We don't want to stay here unless it is made a safe place," said Mohammad Aslam.

He had returned to see his damaged home only a kilometre from the blast site after spending the night in nearby hills with his family.

He was to address a rally in Luanda's May 1st Square after his return and sources close to the presidency said he was expected to announce the release of all political prisoners.

The peace agreement ended 30 years of conflict stretching back to an uprising against Portuguese colonial rule in 1961 and the civil war which broke out after independence in 1975.

Revellers balanced champagne bottles and beer cans on their heads and waved their arms at an all-night musical extravaganza in Kinaxixi Square as they danced to the music of dozens of local groups.

The diplomatic corps celebrated in a dimly-lit discotheque in the Hotel Panorama at a party given by the Foreign Ministry. Ambassadors strained to exchange conversation above the raucous blare of music.

Helicopters and vessels had been sent to safe havens, he added.

The storm raging in the Bay of Bengal about 400 miles southwest of Chittagong could strike the coast at midnight, the Dhaka Meteorological Office said.

It was expected to cause 44 mph (70 kph) winds and a three-metre tidal wave, it said.

The U.S. task force spokesman said the threat had forced U.S. and British Marines to suspend operations in remote islands and coastal areas battered by a cyclone on April 29.

All five U.S. Blackhawk helicopters and three British Sea King helicopters — one Sea King downed in the sea and sank on Saturday but all five crew were saved — had been flown to Dhaka for safety, he said.

The storm was fired from a truck on high ground overlooking the Ulster Defence Regiment base at Glenane in County Armagh, a major stronghold for the IRA in its guerrilla battle to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Port authorities had been asked to hoist danger singles and vessels in the Bay of Bengal had been warned, an official said.

Stackpole said both the St. Louis and the British ship Fort Grange would move to safe zones before the cyclone struck.

The authorities had said the cyclone warning had caused panic across the entire coastal area.

"We are not sure if we are going to be hit again by the cyclone, but everybody seems panicky," said Mokammel Huq, the chief relief coordinator in Chittagong.

"We have however asked everybody to get to cyclone shelter."

He said the tidal surge coming with the storm would contaminate desalinated ponds prepared by U.S. Marines.

Nearly 7,000 marines, who came in eight ships with helicopters and amphibious craft, had left for home after two weeks of operation during which they ferried nearly 3,000 tonnes of food and other relief supplies to affected areas.

"If any one of these hunger strikers dies, he will die the peace process in this country," Slovo said. Many have been fasting since the beginning of May and face permanent health dam-

China brings back Zhao allies

C PEKING (R) — China confirmed Saturday that three fallen reformers, victims of a purge by Communist hardliners in 1989, had been rehabilitated and given vice ministerial posts.

All three were allies of ex-Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted in a bitter power struggle and accused of encouraging unrest crushed by the army on June 4, 1989.

Most prominent of the three is Hu Qili, 62, once part of the Communist Party's inner circle of power as a member of the ruling politburo's standing committee. He was named vice minister of machine building and electronics industry, according to the official

New China News Agency. He has bounced back from political setbacks in the past. During the Cultural Revolution, a decade of political fanaticism that ended in 1976, he was sent to the remote northwest to be reformed through labour.

The agency's brief despatch also said that Rui Wingwen was named a vice minister of the state planning commission and Yan Mingtao a vice minister of civil affairs.

The three had been members of the Communist Party's Secretariat until hardliners seized control of the party and launched a bloody crackdown on political protests in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

Soviet pilot ignored order to destroy KAL jet — KGB

P MOSCOW (AP) — More than 13 years after a South Korean plane strayed into Soviet airspace, the KGB revealed that a Soviet pilot ignored commands to destroy the aircraft and fired a warning shot instead, TASS has reported.

The incident occurred in 1978, presaging the more famous case of Korean Airlines (KAL) Flight 007 five years later. A Soviet interceptor shot down the Jumbo jet, killing all 269 on board.

In 1978, pilot Alexander Bosov was ordered to "destroy the violator" but instead fired a warning shot that damaged the wing of the Korean Airlines 707, forcing it to land on a frozen lake, the Soviet News Agency said. Two people were killed.

TASS said its report was based on information came from KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, who provided Soviet journalists with secret documents about the incident.

The Korean Airlines Boeing 707 had more than 100 passengers on board.

It left Paris and headed for Alaska, Seoul, Tokyo and Osaka but lost course over the Barents Sea in the Arctic and strayed over Karella in northwestern Soviet Union on April 20, 1978.

A Soviet Air Force fighter

plane intercepted it upon entering Soviet air space, TASS said. Due to heavy clouds, pilot Bosov was unable to identify the plane and was ordered to force it down, TASS said.

Following the order, I repeatedly closed in on the Boeing for 12-13 minutes and made internationally accepted signals, ordering it to land. I waved the wings, gesturing downwards with my fighter plane's fuselage," TASS quoted Bosov as saying during an investigation.

The Boeing's pilot told investigators he did not notice the signals and flew further into Soviet Air Space, TASS reported.

Bosov then fired a missile that damaged the Boeing's wing, forcing it to make an emergency landing on a frozen lake near the city of Kemerovo, TASS said. Two passengers were killed and the rest flown home the following day.

Soviet authorities held the Korean crew but later dropped criminal charges and expelled them from the Soviet Union, TASS said.

In 1983, another Soviet pilot fired at another Korean Airlines plane, this time over the Soviet island of Sakhalin north of Japan. All 269 people on board, including a U.S. congressional delegation, was killed.

The Pope told Walesa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his role in Solidarity's peaceful struggle against communism, that he spoke with an authentic voice for a new, sovereign Poland.

Pope begins Polish visit

KOSZALIN, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul spoke of his joy at the fall of communism in Eastern Europe Saturday as he began his first visit to Poland since the Solidarity union led his homeland to freedom.

"I rejoice in the remarkable good which happened and is still happening in my fatherland," the Polish-born pontiff said as he arrived at Koszalin, a northwestern city 450 kilometres from Warsaw.

"This is an enormous historical process of a multifold nature. The fall of totalitarianism," the 71-year-old Pope said after kissing the tarmac as he stepped onto Polish soil.

The Pope was welcomed amid pouring rain, wind and cold by President Lech Walesa, the former shipyard electrician and devout Roman Catholic who led Solidarity in its 10-year struggle to topple Communist rule.

"You were and are the symbol of the spirit of this nation. Of a nation which never accepted a system of enslavement," Walesa told the Pope in a welcoming speech.

He asked the pontiff to come to help Poles with his wisdom in their difficult task of building a free country and a free market economy.

The Pope will spend nine days on his fourth pilgrimage to Poland, an overwhelmingly Catholic nation of 38 million where he is widely revered for his moral authority.

He will deliver dozens of speeches at 42 meetings and open-air masses in 12 towns and cities across the country.

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"We have however asked everybody to get to cyclone shelter."

He said the tidal surge coming with the storm would contaminate desalinated ponds prepared by U.S. Marines.

Nearly 7,000 marines, who came in eight ships with helicopters and amphibious craft, had left for home after two weeks of operation during which they ferried nearly 3,000 tonnes of food and other relief supplies to affected areas.

"We have not surrendered. On the contrary, we have achieved a great victory," said Quintin Lame, the chief relief coordinator in Chittagong.

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